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DRAFT SECTION ON TRADE PROMOTION AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the regulations and rules governing programme planning (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules 1(1987)), the draft section on trade promotion and export development of *Programme 15. International Trade* of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 to be carried out by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT is herewith submitted to the Joint Advisory Group for review and comments.

2. It should be recalled that on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in 1987, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/215, extended the revised medium-term plan for 1984-1989 to 1991, on the condition that the next medium-term plan be improved in its format, content and presentation. Following further recommendations by the Committee in 1988, the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988, decided that the next medium-term plan of the United Nations should cover the period 1992-1997, and invited the intergovernmental bodies to give due attention to the most appropriate structure for the major programme or major programmes, programmes and subprogrammes submitted for their consideration, in the light of an analysis, to be provided by the Secretary-General, of the objectives, trends and general orientations derived from the mandates of the intergovernmental bodies.

3. The preliminary proposals of the Secretary-General on the new structure of the medium-term plan were contained in paragraphs 33 to 35 of the draft introduction to that plan (A/43/329. Annex). They regrouped the number of major programmes and programmes in the current medium-term plan from 31 to 4 and from 148 to about 40 respectively. Subsequently, an updated revised programme structure and additional information, taking into account comments of Member States in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council and consultations on the subject within the Secretariat, were provided to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

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4. The revised medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991) has under *Major Programme 16. International Trade and Development Finance*, one programme on trade promotion and export development with eight subprogrammes. In the programme structure proposed for the period 1992-1997, the activities to be carried out by ITC will fall under eight subprogrammes of *Programme 15. International Trade*. The new programme structure does not eliminate mandated activities. It seeks to correct some of the main deficiencies of the current plan and to make the new plan more transparent to the intergovernmental bodies dealing with specific substantive issues. This will hopefully facilitate interaction between these organs and those having central responsibility for planning, programming and budgeting. It is also intended to provide programme managers with an opportunity to review in depth their programmes and assess what has been done and how it was done, to set objectives which are both feasible and acceptable to Member States, and to propose appropriate strategies for achieving these objectives. The ultimate objective is to have a plan fulfilling a double role as the principal policy directive of the United Nations and as one of the operational instruments for integrated management of activities undertaken by the United Nations. The other instruments are the programme budget, reports on programme performance and evaluation reports.

5. The ITC section of the plan is divided into two main parts. Part I gives the overall orientation and objectives of the subprogramme and will form part of the narrative on *Programme 15. International Trade*. The second part describes the objectives and the strategy of the eight subprogrammes.

6. Implementation of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 will be initiated under the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The draft section on ITC activities assumes that the reforms called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 will have been carried out by that time, that the financial crisis confronting the United Nations will have passed, and that, in addition to regular budget resources, appropriate extra-budgetary resources will be available. If these assumptions are proven wrong, revisions to the plan will be necessary.

7. The Secretary-General will take into account the recommendations of the Joint Advisory Group when reviewing the draft for submission to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, in 1990. The narrative of the draft may be revised. As with the programme budget, approval of the medium-term plan is a prerogative of the General Assembly.

8. In pursuance of a recommendation of the Joint Advisory Group at its twenty-second session, the draft ITC section of the plan was discussed at a Technical Meeting held in Geneva from 22 to 24 January 1990. It was subsequently revised to take into account the recommendations of the meeting. This revised version is contained in document ITC/AG(XXIII)/118/Add.1/Rev.1.

9. Bearing in mind the information provided above, the Joint Advisory Group may wish to comment and make proposals on:

(a) The objectives and strategies proposed for the medium-term plan for 1992-1997;

(b) Proposed new activities.